

The Martinsburg Gazette.

BY EDMUND P. HUNTER.

MARTINSBURG, BERKELEY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

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THE MARTINSBURG GAZETTE

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A CARD.

W. G. SINGLETON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
W. G. SINGLETON, in the Federal Courts, will give his prompt attention to any case of bankruptcy that may be committed to his management.
Winchester, Va., February 24, 1842—tf

Wm. L. Baker,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
H. Baker, permanently located in Charleston, will practice in the Superior and Inferior Courts of Jefferson, Berkeley, Frederick and Clarke.

Collection of claims promptly attended to.
Office one door south-east of T. C. Signouse's store.
December 9, 1841—tf

R. C. GUSTIN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
BATH, MORGAN COUNTY, VA.
WILL practice in the several Courts of Morgan, Frederick, and Berkeley. Business entrusted to him will be punctually attended to.
May 13, 1841—tf

A CARD.

THE undersigned, having returned from a tour through the Western and Southern cities, will inform his old customers and the public that he intends to carry on the HOUSE JOINER and CARPENTER BUSINESS, in all its various branches, in the latest and most fashionable manner. Builders and others can be furnished with plans and drawings, at the shortest notice, with or without bills of Lumber. He can be found at all times, at his old residence, at the west end of Burke Street, where he hopes to receive a share of public patronage.
WM. GREGORY.
November 25, 1841—tf

COPARTNERSHIP.
THE undersigned have this day formed a partnership for conducting the Mercantile Business, under the firm of J. W. & B. R. Boyd.
JOHN W. BOYD,
BENJ. R. BOYD.
January 3, 1842.

JOHN W. BOYD tenders to his old customers, his thanks for their liberal support, and respectfully asks a continuance to the New Firm. The change in the business will require a settlement of all accounts. Those having open accounts will please call and settle them—either by cash or note—with as little delay as possible.
January 6, 1842.

COACH MAKING.

Co-Partnership.

THE subscribers, having associated themselves in the above named business for a term of years, in Charleston, Va., at the old stand of Wells J. Hawks, take this opportunity to inform their friends and the public generally, that they will be happy to receive orders for

New Work or Repairing.
They intend working constantly on hand a variety of VEHICLES, which they pledge themselves shall be made in the best manner, and warranted to stand.

Coaches, Family Carriages, Buggies, Sulkeys, Barouches, &c., can be had by application at their Coach Factory, at short notice.

Those wishing to purchase, will do well to give this establishment a call, as no pains shall be spared to give entire satisfaction, and the public may rest assured that purchases can be made on as accommodating terms as elsewhere.
HAWKS & ROSS.
Charleston, Jan. 27, 1842.

CARD.

THE subscriber, grateful for the liberal patronage he has received from the citizens of Jefferson and the adjoining Counties, tenders to them his sincere thanks, and hopes, by the above association, to merit a continuance of patronage. All those having claims against me, will please present them for settlement, and those who know themselves indebted to me, will see the propriety of closing their accounts as soon as possible.
W. J. HAWKS.
January 27, 1842.

WOODBURY FOR SALE.

BEING about to remove to the University, I offer my residence, called WOODBURY, with 370 acres of LAND, for sale. It is situated on a well known tract in this part of the country, that it is unnecessary to describe it, particularly, as a purchaser will probably visit it. The terms of payment will be very easy and accommodating.
H. S. G. TUCKER.
August 19, 1841—tf

TO RENT.

I WILL rent, for the ensuing year, my FLOURING MILLS, at dam No. 5, in the County of Berkeley. It is deemed unnecessary to give a description of this Property, further than to say it is in complete order, has every necessary building for carrying on a large business, and is well situated for business. There are four run of Burrs and a Kiln for drying Corn. Possession will be given on the 1st of July.

I have for sale, a large quantity of PLANK of almost all qualities and descriptions; a large supply of Fencing Plank and Poplar, which I will sell at the best terms.
EDWARD COLSTON.
May 13, 1841—tf

CASTINGS.

JUST RECEIVED, a large supply of Kettles, Pots, Ovens, Spiders, Skillets, Griddles and extra Lids, with an assortment of wagon boxes, by
WILSON & DOLL.
April 8.

Servants' Clothing.
HEAVY 6-4 and 3-4 Filled Linsey, 3-4 and 4-4 plaid and striped Linsey for Servants' Clothing, just received and for sale low by
J. VAN DOREN, Jr.
October 7, 1841.

CLOVERSEED.
26 BUSHELS of Superior Clover Seed, for sale by
February 2, 1842. WILSON & DOLL.

Fresh Teas and Groceries.

JOHN JAMISON
HAS just received a fresh supply of TEAS & GROCERIES, which will be sold cheap for cash only, amongst which are:
Gunpowder, Imperial, young & old TEAS, hyson and black.
Loaf, lump, crushed and brown SUGARS.
New Orleans and Sugar, SUGAR MOLASSES.
Coffee, Chocolate and Baker's Cocoa.
GENUINE WINES & LIQUORS.
Medusa Wines from 1 to 6 dollars per gallon.
Sherry, Port, Hock, Sweet, Claret, and Champagne wines of delicious quality, in bottles, or by the larger quantity.
Cognac Brandy from 2 to 5 dollars per gallon; domestic old Peach and Apple Brandy; Holland Gin (direct importation); Jamaica Spirit; New Orleans and other Rum; genuine Scotch, Irish, old Monaghan and other Whiskies.
Tennent's superior Scotch Ale.

FRUIT.
Lemons, Oranges, Raisins and Cranberries.
Fine Cheating Tobacco.
Snuff, Principe, Regalia and other CIGARS, with a general assortment of goods usually kept by grocers.
December 23, 1841.

New Fall & Winter GOODS.
THE subscriber takes pleasure in informing his friends, customers and the public generally, that he is now receiving a large and Winter supply of Merchandise, consisting of every variety of
BRITISH, FRENCH & AMERICAN DRY GOODS
And Groceries,
Selected with great care, and on reasonable terms, from the latest arrivals, which he will sell on the most pleasing terms.
October 7, 1841. THOMAS C. SMITH.

NEW GOODS.
THE subscriber, having just returned from Baltimore, is now receiving and opening a large and general assortment of
FALL AND WINTER GOODS,
which will be sold low to suit the times. His stock will be found to consist of a general assortment, such as
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, GLASS, China and Queens Ware, &c.
Persons in want of bargains, will do well to call before making their purchases, as he is determined to sell cheap for cash, or to punctual customers on a short credit.
JACOB VAN DOREN, Jr.
November 18, 1841.

ALL kinds of country produce taken in exchange for GOODS.
J. V. D. J.

A SECOND SUPPLY OF Winter Goods.
THE subscriber is receiving a second supply of FALL & WINTER GOODS, which, in addition to his former stock, makes his assortment complete—comprising almost every article called for, such as
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE AND Glassware.
together with a large quantity of Antiques, Plates and Irons. He has also a few excellent ten plate STOVES, No. 1—all of which he will sell low for cash, or to punctual customers on a short credit.

He respectfully invites the attention of his customers and the public generally to his new stock of Goods, which has been purchased very low, and which he will sell very cheap.
P. BRODRICK.
Honey Wood Mills, Va., Dec. 30, 1841.

NEW GOODS.
THE undersigned has just received and finished opening his supply of
FALL & WINTER GOODS,
Among which may be found every article of utility and comfort necessary to supply the wants of his friends generally. He would therefore respectfully invite all who may feel disposed to patronize him, to call and examine his stock of Goods, which he is determined to sell cheap.

JOSEPH BURNS.
October 14, 1841.

STOCK OF GOODS AT A BARGAIN.
THE undersigned, Trustees of Wm. Long and Wm. S. Long, offer at private sale, a great bargain, in a
STOCK OF GOODS.
at the Mill Creek Store, at Bunker's Hill. It consists of the greatest variety, and is the most complete assortment for the country trade, of any establishment in this valley; and can be bought on most advantageous terms—as to price and time of payment. If desired, the stock will be equally divided. Persons wishing to purchase, can see the goods in the care of Mr. John P. Stewart, and for the terms, can apply to us, personally or by letter, in Martinsburg. The store house can also be had by the purchaser, if desired; and it is admitted to be the best stand in the country.

We also offer a TRACT OF LAND, lying near Martinsburg, adjoining the lands of Christian Taylor, William Gortell and others, containing 46 acres—a large portion of which is in Timber. Also a HOUSE & LOT, on Burke Street, in Martinsburg, near the Railroad Depot.
D. H. CONRAD,
D. BURKHART.
September 9, 1841—tf

CARPETING & RUGS.
J. VAN DOREN has just received, in addition to his stock of Carpets, a few handsome pieces of super and common Ingrain Carpets, with Rugs to match, which will be sold very low. Persons in want of the above Goods will please call before making their purchases, as he is selling Carpets and Rugs at reduced prices.
November 18.

CAVENDISH TOBACCO.—A fresh supply of a fine quality; also, superior Segars and Snuff, for sale by
November 18. W. DORSEY.

WINDOW GLASS.—8x10, 10x12, 12x16, 14x18, and 15x19, just received and for sale, by
November 18. W. DORSEY.

Pease's
Celebrated Clarified Essence of
HOREHOUND CANDY.
FOR Colds, Coughs, Hoarseness, Whooping Cough, Asthma, with necessary directions, for sale by
April 15, 1841. W. DORSEY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Boston Times.

CONFESSION OF A PIRATE.

It is probably that most of our readers can call to mind the fate of Mrs. Alston, the wife of the governor of South Carolina, and daughter of the famous Aaron Burr. This lady was an only child, beautiful, virtuous and accomplished. With what deep and unquenchable affection Burr regarded her, many of his letters bear irrefragable proof. It is in familiar letters that the heart speaks out. Burr was an ambitious man—ambitious of power and greedy of a notoriety, no matter how obtained. He was a man of gallantry, it is true, but his heart was not engaged in any of his illicit amours, and those who knew him best, and were not blind to his faults and crimes, believed that he loved his wife and child with a fervor that many a husband and father of austere morality never felt. It was on a voyage to New York to see her father, whom she deoted on, that Mrs. Alston perished. The vessel was supposed to have foundered at sea, and such it imagined to have been her fate. But murder will out, and suspicions of foul play began to awaken. A sailor died in Maine, according to an account published in one of the papers, confessing on his death-bed, that he was one of a crew of pirates who boarded the vessel and put all hands to death. Burr discredited this account, as he did one of a similar confession, made by a sailor in Mobile. The Crescent City says:—“We have now to add another confession, made under similar circumstances, which leaves no doubt in our mind, as to the fate of the fair being in question. A gentleman from Texas—an old and valued friend, and one whose veracity is unimpeachable—informs us that an old sailor recently died at Matagorda, who made a full confession of a number of piracies in which he had been engaged, and stated that he was one of the crew of the vessel which had sailed from Charleston, with Mrs. Alston on board. When three days out, a consultation was held, and it was determined that the passengers should be robbed and murdered. The work of death commenced, and all were killed, Mrs. Alston being the last victim who was made to walk the plank. Her image, he said, was always before him, and he could not die without confessing the horrid deed. The closing scene of his life was horrible in the extreme—he raved with madness, exclaiming, ‘There!—there she is now!—I see her standing before me!—away—away!’”

Many witnesses were present who can bear testimony to the confession, and we think there can no longer exist any doubt on a subject which was so long veiled in mystery.

From the Baltimore Saturday Visitor.

DAVID H. STROTHER, THE ARTIST.
The reader will find in another column, part of a letter from abroad. We are indebted to it, to the Martinsburg (Va.) Gazette. That paper has been publishing a series of them—by which our attention was attracted particularly, in the very commencement. They are from an artist, as the caption will denote. That artist is David H. Strother of the above named place. He gave early promise of an unusual talent in that line. Some of his first portraits are equal to hundreds painted by long experienced pencils. About two years since he departed for Italy, for the purpose that he invited so many artists thither. We expect him to return so proficient in his art, as to become an honor to his family and country. He was our school-fellow. Hence we feel free and secure, in speaking of him as our feelings direct.

What struck us as peculiarly prophetic of his future career, was the “turn” he had in early boyhood, for sketching objects of nature and art. It was little matter to him if his slate and his copy-book were the only materials he possessed. Many have been the punishments we have seen him write under for the luxury of taking the portraits of school-fellows, instead of “doing sums.” But Nature had placed her stamp upon him and issued her edict, and forbade successful prosecution of anything but painting—or rather penciling, as it was literally. There can be little success in compulsive and distasteful duties. Though he acquired on account of this propensity, the reputation of an “idle boy,” we have no fear as to his establishing the very different reputation of a good artist. In the way of landscape-painting we think he promises to excel the majority of American Artists. It is this class, too, which we need. We want men who can take the likeness of a hill, or valley as well as that of a pretty girl, or an ugly man, whom it is easy, and tempting in a view of a good fee, to represent as a “handsome fellow.” We hope, therefore, that Mr. Strother may soon feel himself prepared to return, with the view of following, at home distinguishedly, a profession the enticements of which have beckoned him from his kindred and home, to a land of strangers.

MANNERS.—A due sense of propriety of conduct towards all classes of the community is obligatory on every one, although some appear hardly aware of it. The manners of a man are the mirror which reflects his disposition and the feelings of his mind. Savagery of manners always gains friends—moresness engenders enmity. An affable address, of course, always pleases; but a surly response creates a prejudice and a dislike which years cannot dissipate.

A “Home League” has been formed at Newark, New Jersey.

Correspondence of the New York American.

RIO JANEIRO, JANUARY, 1842.

We have had a visit from the Emperor. Besides the “Delaware,” he visited the French Admiral on board the frigate “Gloire,” the senior English captain on board the frigate “Andromache,” and the Portuguese sloop of war “Don John the 1st.” He was received with salutes of 21 guns from all the ships of war and forts in the harbor. The Delaware and French Admiral's frigate were dressed with flags, and all the ships had their yards manned. The Delaware was the last ship that he visited, and he remained a much longer time on board of her than he did on board of any other.

A handsome collation was spread out on board for his little Majesty and his two sisters, who accompanied him. On leaving the ship after the salute was fired, the Emperor directed three cheers to be given from his barge, and his visit called out “Vive L'America.” This was a compliment not extended to any other of the vessels he visited.

While on board the Delaware, the Emperor asked to see the crew manage the guns, as in action, and then asked that the salute which was to be given him might be fired while he was on board. This was done, but the usual salute on leaving was given him besides.

We will sail in the morning for Montevideo, and as it is understood we are to manœuvre the squadron on our way down, we shall, no doubt, be several days longer than usual on our passage.

THE DRUMMER BOY OF LUNDY'S LANE.
—Major Gen. Winfield Scott, while on the frontier during the late border difficulties, at a complimentary dinner given him, by the citizens of Cleveland, related the following characteristic anecdote that occurred during the battle of Lundy's Lane in the last war:—In the very midst of the battle his attention was arrested by observing at a little distance where a whole company of riflemen had just been cut down by the terrible fire of the enemy, three drummer boys quarrelling for a single drum, all that was left to them. Soon the strongest ones went to “stufcus,” while the third quietly folded his arms, awaiting the issue of the contest. At that moment a cannon ball struck the boys, and killed them both. With one bound the little fellow caught the drum from between them and with a shout of triumph, and a loud “tattoo,” dashed forward to the thickest of the fight.

Said the General, “I so admired the little soldier that I rode after him and inquired his name, which was—” and directed him to find me at the close of the battle, but I never saw him afterwards.”

At this moment, Mr. —, one of the most respectable merchants in Cleveland arose, and with a smile and bow, informed the company, that he was the “Drummer Boy of Lundy's Lane.”

ONE WAY AS GOOD AS ANOTHER.—The people all over the world are driving over the road of life at a most unaccountable rate. Not only can a fellow be hauled along by steam at lightning speed, but he can get married at the rate of a knot, a minute. Witness how the “Esq.” does up these bundles of felicity among the Hoosiers. “What is your name?” John. “Well, Miss, what's your name?” “Polly.” “John, do you love Polly?” “Yes, sir—no mistake.” “Polly, do you love John?” “I do, sir.” “Well that's right; now then—”

I pronounce you man and wife, All the days of your life.
The happy pair, each one giving the Justice a nip, walked away, arm in arm, as happy as love could make them, to enjoy “domestic happiness in a hovel on the prairie.”

IRISH LETTER.—An Irishman wrote to his son at school the following letter:—“Dear Son—If you are well when this reaches you, we are well. By the bearer, I send you my old brown coat; get a new one made out of it. Your mother sends you, unbeknowing to me, five pounds. I hope you will not spend them foolishly; if you do, I just can tell you that you are a silly goose, and I remain your affectionate father.”

P. S.—Your sister Sally wanted me to tell you to send her a shell comb, but as I forgot it this time, and the letter was already sealed, I will mention it in my next.”

ADVICE.—The Crescent City man volunteers the following advice to those most interested. Does his intended sister-in-law bother him occasionally?
“If your sister while tenderly engaged in a tender conversation with her sweet heart, requests you to bring her a glass of water from the adjoining room, you can start on the errand, but you need not return. You will not be missed.”

CRSTON.—“Well, Mr. Grocer, how much do you ask for your sugar?”
“Nine pence a pound?”
“How much a hoghead?”
“Well, about forty dollars.”
“I'll take a cent's worth of cigars, if you please.”

When is a pig like a paragraph?
When he is penned.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—Bring kissed almost to death by a pretty girl.

PROVIDENCE.—What is there in man so worthy of honor and reverence as this—that he is capable of contemplating something higher than his own reason—more sublime than the whole universe—that Spirit which alone is subsistent—from which all truth proceeds—without which, is no truth.—F. E. Jacobi.

From the Norfolk Beacon.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The commerce of the United States already reaches every considerable foreign country with which intercourse is valuable, and from its character and extent at this time, it seems to be perfectly clear, that when we look to our probable increase in population and production, that this intercourse must be greatly increased in time to come. The mercantile profession not only sharpens the intellect but it also teaches the value and importance of prudence and foresight—causes men to enquire what effects will be produced by certain causes, and makes it their interest to inform themselves of the great relations of the different parts of the world to each other.

The elder Adams, who, however heretofore and arbitrary may have been his political opinions, was, without doubt, a patriot, in contemplating, with a statesman's sagacity, the future grandeur and commercial greatness of his country, when writing to Commodore Truxton said, “the counsel which I have always given and shall continue to give my countrymen, is that as great questions of commerce between nations and empires must be decided by a military marine, and war or peace are determined by sea, all reasonable encouragement should be given to a Navy—the Trident of Neptune is the sceptre of the world.”

The total amount of the commerce and navigation of the United States for the year ending on the 30th of September, 1840, according to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, was in exports \$132,085,946, in imports \$107,141,519, and of the latter \$92,802,352 were imported in American vessels, and \$14,339,167 in foreign vessels. The American shipping entered during same period amounted to 1,576,946 tons; cleared from American ports 1,647,609; foreign shipping entered 712,363; cleared 706,486; registered tonnage 899,764; enrolled and licensed 1,176,694; fishing vessels 104,304, making 2,180,764 of registered and enrolled tonnage and that employed in the whale fishery.

Our commercial relations are most intimate and extensive with Great Britain and its colonies. Next in importance is our commerce with France, while our intercourse with Spain, Portugal and the Island of Cuba is very considerable. Mexico, the Spanish and French West Indies, the East Indies, Spanish South American colonies, Central America, Buenos Ayres, Chili, Peru, the Brazils and Colombia affords us a trade of no inconsiderable importance.

With Holland, Germany and the North of Europe we carry on a valuable commerce, they taking our tobacco, cotton, rice, and whale oil, in return for which we take their woolen, linen and iron manufactures.

The trade of the United States with China is believed to be at this time second only to that of Great Britain; and England, with her usual sagacity, is waging war with this semi-barbarous people with the object of securing a commercial treaty which will ensure her advantages over all other nations.

American commercial enterprise is also seeking markets on the African coast, where it finds gum, ivory and other commodities, which are also sought after by the traders of other nations, and particularly by those of England.

Our commerce is indeed rapidly advancing to a point, which if our Government will persevere in the policy of not forming entangling alliances with any of the Nations of the Old World, and while it commits no aggressions on the rights of others, submits to none upon its own, we must attain a point of national dignity, which will command the respect of all nations.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.—We would express a confident hope, says the Madisonian, that the plan of re-organization presented by the faithful and gifted Secretary of the Navy, will meet with the prompt and hearty concurrence of our law makers at the east end of the Avenue. Experience has shown that unity and direct accountability are indispensable to the proper discharge of Executive functions, and whilst we would not, for an instant, be suspected of attaching blame to the honorable and distinguished officers concerned, we would hope that such a system will be adopted as shall render their valuable services to the utmost degree, useful to the country. Governments within governments uniformly paralyze effort, and by dividing responsibility, introduce uncertainty and want of power. Let the proposed plan or something similar in general principle, be adopted, and we venture to predict that the Naval Department will be all that the devoted friends of that arm of the service can desire.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—The New York Herald of yesterday says:—“We understand that Mr. Colt, the celebrated inventor of the revolving pistol, has been engaged for some time, under the authority of the Secretary of the Navy, in making experiments in guns, pistols, shells, bombs, and other instruments of war. Mr. Colt has just made a discovery of a new projectile by which he can, with a single steamer, defend the harbor of New York against a whole fleet of British ships and steamers. It is said he can ignite a destructive shell under water, at the distance of ten miles in a few seconds. The principle is founded on the electric fluid.”

We further learn that the Navy and War departments are beginning to bestir themselves to a great extent. At present the only drawback is the shocking inaction of Congress.

SPEECH OF MR. SCOTT.

OF FAUQUIER.

In the House of Delegates of Virginia, on the subject of the reception of the Proceeds of the Public Lands.

Mr. Speaker—I shall make no apology for addressing the House. If it is important, at this late period of the session, to economize time, it is no less so to consider well the proposition before us. The subject has already, it is true, been ably discussed on both sides; but it cannot have escaped observation, that whilst the argument on the one side has been confined strictly to considerations which belong to the question of distribution, on the other side it has taken a much wider scope, and topics of general politics, better calculated, if not intended, to have influence elsewhere, have been elaborately treated of. To these topics I shall address myself; and before I resume my seat I do not despair of exposing the errors and inconsistencies into which the hot zeal of gentlemen have betrayed them, and of vindicating not only the policy of distribution itself, but the party with which I act, from the rude attacks which they have been assailed. To make my observations intelligible, I will make a brief statement of the question which is presented for consideration. The resolution first offered, proposed to instruct the Committee on Finance, to bring in a bill to provide for the appointment of an Agent, on the part of this Commonwealth, to receive from the proper authorities of the United States, that portion of the proceeds of the sales of the Public Lands to which she will be entitled under the act of Congress, passed at its late extra session, commonly known as the Distribution Law. To this resolution, the gentleman from Louisiana, (Mr. Holladay,) moved a substitute, containing a series of resolutions condemning the Distribution Law, and the whole policy of distribution, and instructing our Senators to exert all their energies to obtain its repeal.

It is manifest that the substitute very much enlarges the range of debate. The first resolution was confined to the propriety of the reception of Virginia of the proceeds of the sales of the Public Lands, and requires us to pass in judgment upon the distribution law, and supervise and control the action of our Senators. Interesting and grave as are the general considerations which pertain to the propositions, there are others of more immediate State concern, which cannot be overlooked. The substitute demands the repeal of the distribution law, and aims its blow at the policy of distribution. It demands of us to declare on behalf of the people of this Commonwealth, not only that we will not accept at this time the provision made for them by the law of Congress, but that hereafter all the rich proceeds of the sales of the vast domain of the public lands, the “common property of all the States,” shall be expended in defraying the current expenses of the Federal Government. It demands of us to reject Virginia's rights and close her iron vaults against the rich stream about to pour into them—and this, too, at a time when those vaults are empty; when the revenue is deficient and heavy taxes are to be imposed; when universal embarrassments oppress the people; when the Banks, struggling amid difficulties, are about to be required to resume specie payments, and curtail their already contracted issues, thus enforcing collections in the very act of diminishing the means of making payments; when the loud voice of distress is heard from every point, and, growing out of the general distress, a STAY LAW lies upon our table reported for adoption. At a time like this, under circumstances, such as I have described, urgent and controlling must be the reasons that will justify concurrence in the substitute.

The amount of money receivable by Virginia under the law of Congress, is variously estimated from one to five hundred thousand dollars yearly. But whatever may be her immediate receipts, it cannot be doubted that in times of ordinary prosperity, consistently with a just regard for the common interests, the sales of the public lands may be so stimulated as to increase her proportion to a yearly sum not short of the largest estimate. Had the distribution policy obtained at first; that is, had Mr. Clay's first Land Bill been adopted, according to actual receipts, our share would have exceeded the sum of \$5,000,000. The public debt of Virginia is \$6,994,307.54, upon which she pays an interest of \$400,068.95, and her current expenses are \$708,000. To meet these expenses we have the dividends upon the public stocks, &c., \$835,844.00, leaving the large balance of \$891,224 to be supplied by yearly taxation.

This statement may serve to give some idea of what the measure may yet produce, and enable us to some extent to estimate its benefits. But notwithstanding the resources with which it will supply us; notwithstanding the relief it will afford against oppressive taxation; notwithstanding the difficulties and embarrassments of the times, we are called upon to reject it: Ist. Because Congress has no authority to make the distribution; 2d. Because the revenue of the Federal Government is deficient; and 3rd. Because the reception of the money by the States will lead to extravagance and corruption. It will be observed that each one of these objections is separate and independent of the others; each rests upon its own peculiar foundation, and if true, each in itself opposes against the law, and the policy which it pursues an unsurmountable impediment. Separate and apart, therefore, from each other, weigh each according to its own intrinsic merits.

I propose to consider them. I will depart from the order in which they have been introduced, and, as it will fall in better with what I have to say, consider the third objection first.

Admitting that the public lands are the “common property of all the States,” and the proceeds of the sales thereof to be lawfully distributable amongst them, it is insisted that the distribution will have a corrupting tendency, and will be therefore injurious. Whom will it corrupt?—How will it corrupt? Are they who are to be corrupted, the agents who make the sales and collect the proceeds? If that is the apprehension, still the evil must be endured, whether the money be retained for the use of the Federal Government, or paid over to the States. Are they to be corrupted who make the transfer merely. This will scarcely be maintained. Who, then, can be intended? Are they the representatives of the people of the States, or the people themselves? Bring the objection home to ourselves. Who will stand upon this floor and proclaim that the reception of this fund into the public Treasury will corrupt the Legislature? Are the chosen representatives of the good people of Virginia deemed thus lightly of? How can it corrupt?—It is not the reception that will have this effect. It is the administration of it?—And why will not the administration of a fund derived from any other source be attended with the same evil? It is a public fund, to be paid into the public Treasury, and to be devoted to public uses. Are they, the people themselves, who are to be corrupted? Can the appropriation of \$500,000, by act of legislation, have such effect? Appropriate it to works of internal improvements, and will it corrupt? Clear the obstructions out of the mighty James River, and extend its connexion with the great Kanawha, and ask the people who inhabit the vast region washed by those waters, whose rich soils lie uncultivated, whose wooded hills are still trampled by the fierce tenants of the forests, and let them answer? Construct the Southwestern Turnpike, stretching from the borders of Tennessee along that almost trackless waste, embracing our Southwestern counties,—develop the vast resources of that region,—furnish avenues to market,—and ask the question of the people who dwell there?

Appropriate it to the purposes of Education, and will it corrupt? Endow your Colleges, multiply your schools, dispel that moral and mental darkness from our land which ignorance entails, and ask the rescued. Appropriate it towards the payment of the public debt,—to lighten the burden of taxation,—and ask the people whether it will corrupt? Away, then, with the objection; it is not less insulting to the character of the people than it is to their understanding.

But it is said the possession of so much money will lead to extravagance, to rash schemes of internal improvement. I beg gentlemen to allay their fears by their words, who make this objection; the cause of internal improvement in Virginia lies dead; and if aught occurs to move their apprehensions, it is the unreal creation of their own fancies—or, if disturbed at its unholy wanderings upon the earth's surface, still let gentlemen assure themselves it is an unreal thing—a shadow form—a ghost, which, like Hamlet's, is an honest ghost. But if, perchance, there should be discovered, in this measure of distribution, a nostrum which will restore the dead to life, and re-animate the lifeless corpse, shall we for that reason reject it? Will the improvement of our means of internal intercourse corrupt us? Will the development of our vast, hidden and unexplored resources impoverish us? Ask the people of the West—ask the representatives of the West—ask yourselves?

But, it is said, extravagance will ensue when those expend who do not contribute what is spent. I grant if we could draw supplies from sources not affecting ourselves—if others had to provide what we might choose to expend, the temptation to extravagance might be irresistible. But why is it that we are restrained at present? Because, we are told, that we have out of our own means to provide whatever we expend. If we indulge extravagantly, our own pockets pay the costs; additional taxes follow as the consequence. But how is it in respect to the proceeds of the sales of the public lands? If they are withdrawn from the Federal Government, is not its yearly income lessened to that extent? And is not the necessity thereby created for additional taxation? And do not the people of the States bear the burden? What becomes of the objection against distribution so loudly made both by the gentleman from Louisiana, and the gentleman from Accomac, (Mr. Bayly,) founded on the supposed burthenous operation of the Tariff? When it was necessary to make the tariff odious, no form of taxation was so oppressive; direct taxes, excises, and all the resorts of crowned heads and despotic governments were cheap and mild in comparison with the system of duties upon imports, but when it served a turn to make distribution unpopular, it is all at once a form of taxation so mild in its operation that the tax is drawn from the people without their knowledge of it. I pray that gentlemen will be consistent, and if the system of revenues derived from imports be obnoxious to the objections urged against it, let the cause of distribution have the benefit of it.

But the Treasury of the United States is empty, and it is said to be an absurd financial measure on that account. If the Federal Treasury is empty, those of the States are not full; both need replenishing; and since the means of replenishment are to be drawn in either case from